

1789 ARRIVAL FROM SOMEWHERE IN ENGLAND

Annotations Clarify -- or Confuse

From Sue Stewart, Puryear, TN, we have an intriguing genealogy of the family of Thomas Dunham (1766-1845), who came to America in 1789. This much-annotated account says, on its cover page:

"THE DESCENDANTS OF THOMAS DUNHAM (1766-1845) OF NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ & ANNA CORRELL, HIS WIFE. 4 COMPLETE GENERATIONS COMPRISING 200 LINEAL DESCENDANTS. Compiled by William E. Dunham, Watkins Glen, NY. Arranged by Fred S. Dunham, Cleveland, Ohio, 1926. ((With annotations by WILL Dunham.)) ((Received this from Ruth McGill in '88. Her address at top. See further notes from pages to come. D.)) ((Maybe if I look in census records of 1910 I can find children of Fred S. & William E. & we can see if anyone of these descendants are still alive & working on Dunham Family. D.))"

In addition this first page has the name of Ruth McGill, Bath, NY in the corner. Some of the annotations are legible, some not, plus the names of a "Mr. Horton" & Loren Dunham of Millerton, PA. Lots of people worked on this!

As a general rule, DD does not publish certain types of materials: census extracts, gravestone photos, & genealogies -- the latter because they are too long. However, we'll make an exception in this case, primarily because it ISN'T very long (We don't have all of it; the document skips from page 2 to page 15), & because it is so confusing with all of the added notations, many of them without adequate identification of the makers. We'll enclose these annotations in double parentheses, a device we usually employ for our own asides.

It is our hope that someone can latch onto the information contained in this document & make more sense out of it than has been done here.

"THE DESCENDANTS OF THOMAS DUNHAM OF NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ.

1. Thomas Dunham (1766-1845). Married in 1791 Anna Carell, presumably at New Brunswick, NJ. 2. Ann Dunham, a sister of Thomas, married a Davis, presumably at New Brunswick, NJ. ((Jeff Davis, son of Ann Davis, says Louis (b. Freemont) son of Gaither, says he went to play (?) with Jeff Davis (at Hornell) & Davis was his cousin.)) 3. A brother who moved from New Brunswick to Indiana. ((Midwest, WD)) 4. A brother who moved from New Brunswick to Illinois.

Thomas Dunham ((# 84)) (1766-1845), together with his 2 brothers, whose names are unknown, & a sister Ann emigrated from England, landing, as it is believed, at Perth Amboy, NJ. They settled at New Brunswick, NJ about 1789. This year virtually marked the end of the Colonial period, as the Constitution of the United States was ratified a year later by all the colonies except Rhode Island. The history of the Dunham family is therefore coextensive with that of the American Republic.

Ann Dunham married a man by the name of Davis & went south, -- destined, as it is believed, to become a lineal ancestor of Jefferson Davis, the leader of the Rebellion of 1860-1865. ((Dunham postcard)) One of Thomas' brothers moved to Indiana, the other to Illinois. (Or do you mean they both went west, to Indiana or Illinois?) ((Suppose Midwest is better.))

Thomas Dunham remained at New Brunswick for 13 or 14 years. In 1791 he married Anna Corell (1764-1843). In 1801 Thomas & his family, which then consisted of his wife & 4 sons, Samuel, Ambrose, John & David, moved to Seneca County, NY, & settled at ((...pers)) Townsendville. ((Corell. Piscataway, NJ (township of New Brunswick) a brother of Ann, Thomas wife, came to Seneca Co., later moving to Steuben Co., as did Thomas & Ann.)) (to page 2)

1789 ARRIVAL (from p. 1) In 1812 he moved with his wife & family of 7 sons to Reynoldsville, located in what was at that time Tompkins County. He settled on Lot 62, which is now owned by Andrew Coon. It is therefore assumed that he was engaged in farming. ((Will Dunham says LUMBERING.)) The reason for his leaving New Jersey for this particular section of New York is mere conjecture. It may be supposed, however, that many of the New Jersey families, many of whom were of Dutch descent, were at this time emigrating to the fertile valleys of the Finger Lakes. At any rate, it is of interest to note that Lydia Stout, whom Samuel Dunham (Thomas' oldest son) married, belonged to a Dutch family from New Jersey.

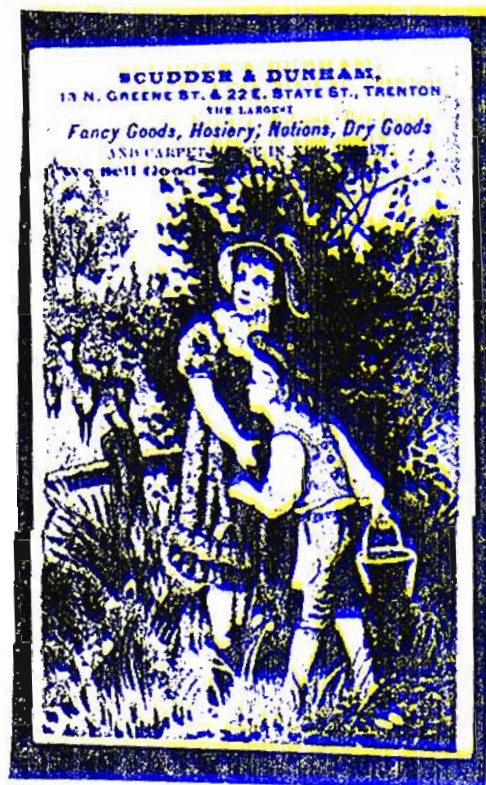
How long Thomas remained at Reynoldsville is not known, but his sojourn there could not have been long, for he moved with his family to the vicinity of Buena Vista, Steuben County, NY. Here he spent the rest of his life. His oldest son, Samuel, however, who had probably by this time married Lydia Stout, remained on the farm in the town of Hector, near Reynoldsville.

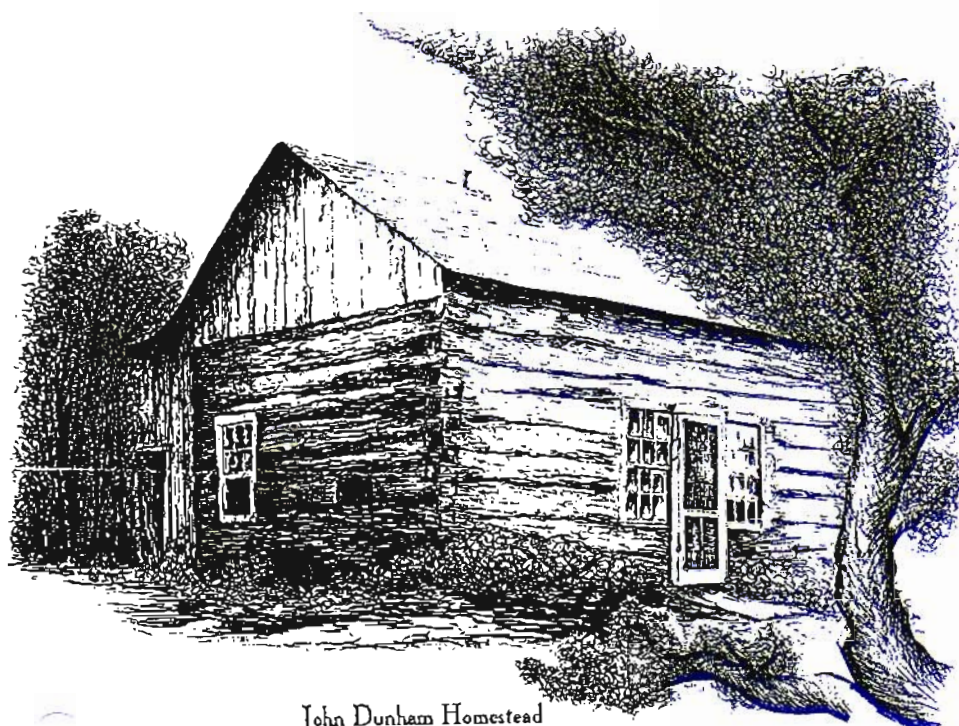
Thomas Dunham died Jan 22, 1845, having survived his wife by 2 years. ((Anna Corell died Jan. 2, 1843.)) Both had lived 79 years, & both were buried at Buena Vista. Their youngest son, Jonathan, is also buried there. Ambrose is buried in the town of Howard. David & Lewis ((our Lewis)) are buried at Freemont, also in Steuben County. ((Illegible)) ((Note up in the upper left-hand corner say that some of the uncles state they used to play with Jeff Davis in Hornell & that he was a cousin living in the south. I've looked for Davis' lineage & haven't found much Just because he was named JEFF DAVIS doesn't mean he was THE Jeff Davis. D.)) ((Of interest further: I haven't found anyone who is doing research on any DUNHAMs. Maybe a good search in the libraries will turn up something. I'll check. D.)) Indications are that the appended notes were written ca. 1988. Perhaps all of us should have made our efforts more widely known!

(More later)

AN EXAMPLE OF THE VANISHED STORE CARD

P. C. Alger, Derry, NH, found this appealing little "store card" from the establishment of Scudder & Dunham, Green & State Sts., Trenton, NJ. She sent it with an accompanying article which explains what store cards were: Advertisements which enjoyed a great vogue in the years 1880-1900, ladies being the most avid collectors of these cards. The pictures had nothing to do with the particular businesses, but were selected based on what was likely to be of the greatest interest to the customer/collector. This girl & boy may have been going blueberrying, but their attention is captured by 3 deer on the far side of the fence. "Don't move," the boy was probably warning his sister, "or you'll scare them away!" Who operated the Scudder & Dunham dry goods store in Trenton? And where have all the dry goods stores gone? 50 years ago every self-respecting town in the country had at least one, situated on Main St. & doing a flourishing business.





John Dunham Homestead
1857

Eaton County, Mulliken, Michigan

VIA BILL WOOD, DD has this sketch of the pioneer home of John M. Dunham (1822-1897) (7)(Deacon John 1, Joseph 2, Micajah 3, Micajah 4, David 5, Aaron 7), who settled in Eaton County, Michigan in 1857. The book, PAST & PRESENT OF EATON COUNTY, has an interesting account of this large family. Bill came into possession of this picture through Yonne Dunham, great granddaughter of John, who still lives on the farm that John originally homesteaded, though not in the same house. It was long ago replaced by a beautiful modern building, & now exists only on Yonne's stationery.

EDITORIAL: WHY GENEALOGY?

Pride of ancestry is something that doesn't get plus marks from most people. It is thought to create snobbery & not to equate with the basic concepts of a democratic society. An aristocrat is said to be someone who belongs to a family in which all the important members have been dead a long time, & there is a certain wit in the saying, whether it holds true or not. The undeniable popularity of genealogy today has come about despite this seemingly natural prejudice against it in a society that basks in the idea of equality. That genealogy has been able to achieve the status of the 3rd most popular avocation (following stamp & coin collecting) is because it has been able to "shift gears," away from the history's elite, to become all-inclusive. Too, it is due to the fascination of the quest (like a detective story, without the need of a preceding crime) & the fascination of the old stories themselves as they can be brought into a degree of focus through old records, old pictures, old letters. But genealogy, I believe, is more than the quest, more than the stories, more than pride of ancestry. It is the finding of self as well as the finding of ancestors. By getting to know them & piecing together what we can of their lives, we can get a clearer view of the fabric & dimensions of our own potential. Except in the broadest outlines, their problems were not our problems, nor ours theirs, but in learning how they confronted their problems & conquered or endured, we can learn of the inner resources we have to work with & to call upon. We are who we are only because they were who they were. Their strength is waiting within us. We are made of the same stuff. PSK.

VINTAGE SNAPSHOTS

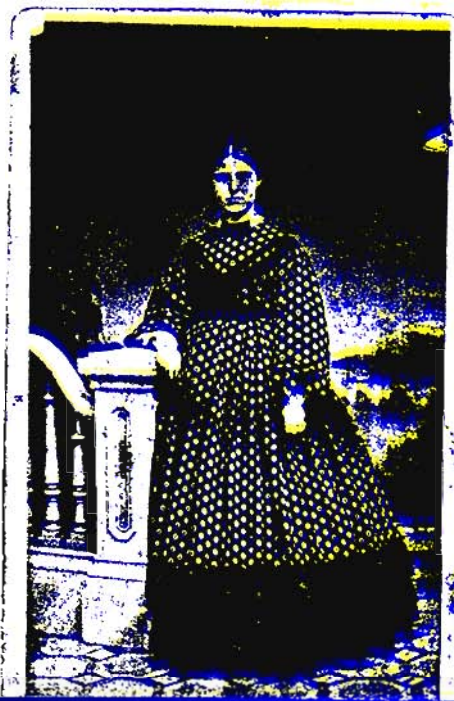


ABOVE: This rare indoor snapshot, taken in 1892, shows Miriam Dunham (later Ferriss) (1874-1940) (10) (John 1, John 2, John 3, Ebenezer 4, Ebenezer 5, Jonathan 6, Ralph 7, Francis S. 8, Samuel E. 9), who is seated in the chair, with 3 of her girlfriends around her.

The little clock on the mantel is familiar to her granddaughter, but not the framed picture above it. Who could that have portrayed? We hope the fancy shade on the floor lamp will copy well; it is magnificent in its fluffiness!



RIGHT: Sept. 1904 is recorded as the date of this Chicago-made snapshot. Here Miriam is standing on the right. Her sister Rosa D. Sims stands on the left; then sister-in-law, Mona Dunham; then sister Edna, & brother-in-law Bill Sims. In the front is Miriam's daughter, Lillyn; then her parents, Samuel E. & Maria S. Dunham.



HENRY NORTON DUNHAM (1842-1926)(9)(Deacon John 1, Benijah 2, Edmond 3, Jonathan 4, Jonathan 5, Jonathan 6, Nahum 7, Samuel 8) is shown above on the left, & his wife, Sarah (Hillman) Dunham (1845-1925) is on the right. Below is their son, J. Harvey Dunham (1872-1943), who became a prominent Presbyterian minister, All photos thanks to Donna D. Hawks, Spring, TX. Spectacular photocopies!

